

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:Smoke where
you're allowed to.

Opinion

Valley student wins
photo contest.

Valley Life

A deeper look into
sports recruiting.

Sports



VALLEY STAR

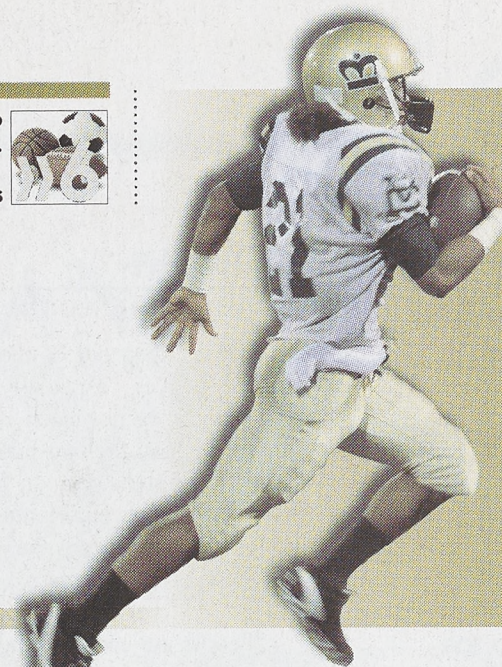
the independent student newspaper

los angeles valley college's

MONARCHS WIN TWO STRAIGHT

The Monarchs
defeated the Glendale
Community College
Vaqueros, 27-21,
Saturday.

»6



lavalleystar.com

October 6, 2010

Volume 73 Issue 3

College Graduates Swimming in Debt

Graduates of four-year colleges start off their adult lives with a tremendous amount of debt.

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

The average student at the time of graduation will have accumulated \$23,000 in debt, according to the latest data from the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study by the U.S. Department of Education.

USA Today reported that the U.S. Department of Education study suggested rising tuitions, borrowing limits on government loans, and a large increase of low-income students have increased the average amount of debt for college graduates. According to Alliance Bernstein Investments, 34 percent of those with college debt have sold possessions to make ends meet.

According to The College Board, in the last decade tuition and fees have increased by an average of 4.9 percent per year. According to CNNMoney.com, in 2004 the average cost of tuition and fees for attending a West Coast public college or university was \$4,130. Also in 2004, the average cost of tuition and fees for attending a West Coast private college or university was \$19,998. The University of California system is carrying out a 32 percent rise in tuition this year. The San Diego News Examiner reported that in-state fees for 2010-2011 will increase to \$11,290, not including room and board.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that on Sept. 27, 2010, President Barack Obama hosted a conference call with journalism students from various universities and discussed the college graduate debt crisis.

"We've done okay in terms of college enrollment rates, but more than a third of America's college students and more than half of our minority students don't earn a degree, even after six years," said Obama. "That's a waste of potential, particularly if folks are racking up big debt and then they don't even get the degree at the end—they still have to pay back that debt, but they're not in a stronger position to be able to service it."

In an effort to decrease the burden of the graduates' debt and make college more affordable, Obama has enforced the Affordable Care Act under his Health Care Bill so that college students can stay on their parents' health plans until they're 26 years old. In addition to the Affordable Care Act, Obama is re-directing \$60 billion to students and community colleges. According to the New York Times, that money was previously going to banks such as Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase, which wanted to use the money to bail themselves out of bankruptcy.

"Our second priority is making sure that higher education creates a workforce that's ready for the new jobs of the future," said President Obama. "Community colleges are going to play a critical role in getting there, and I've asked Dr. Jill Biden to hold the first-ever White House summit on community colleges. That way stakeholders are going to be able to discuss how community colleges can make sure we've got the most educated workforce in the world in relevant subjects that help people get jobs."

NEW STUDENT SERVICES COMPLEX OPENS DOORS



COMPLETION - A Valley College worker put the final touches on the Student Services Complex yesterday. The first phase of the building opens today.

The state-of-the-art building is a one-stop resource for students.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

The state-of-the-art building is a one-stop resource for students.

After 18 months of construction, the new student services complex opens its doors today, welcoming the campus community to a state-of-the-art facility that houses more than 25 individual services under one roof. The 48,000-square-foot center will continue to open in

phases throughout the next seven days. Admissions & Records and Counseling & Advisement are the first services to resume business in the new environment. (See sidebar.) With so many pivotal services now under one roof, students will no longer need to traverse campus to meet administrative needs. "Now a student can go between Admissions & Records, Counseling, and Financial Aid and get all the information in one place," said Florentino Manzano, Dean of enrollment services and acting vice president of student services, who describes the facility as a one-stop resource for students. "That was the goal and I think we've pretty much accom-

plished it," he added. The new facility, with a construction cost of approximately \$19 million, is outfitted with new furnishings from top to bottom, including a state-of-the-art information technology infrastructure complete with many features designed to streamline access to services and offer students added convenience. "We've implemented a virtual line service where students can log in online or from their phone to get in line for services," explained Manzano. "Once in line, we text back letting them know when to come in." If a waiting student finds himself unexpectedly delayed, he can virtually place himself at the

[See STUDENT SERVICES, Page 2]

STUDENT SERVICES OFFICES MOVING DATES FROM WWW.LAVC.COM
CLOSED: SEPT. 27 - OCT. 5
REOPEN: OCT. 6 ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE STUDENT SERVICES CENTER
•ADMISSIONS & RECORDS
•INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
•VETERAN SERVICES
•GRADUATION
CLOSED: SEPT. 27 - OCT. 5
REOPEN: OCT. 6 IN THE STUDENT SERVICES ANNEX
•COUNSELING
•CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER
CLOSED: SEPT. 27 - OCT. 8
REOPEN: OCT. 11 ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE STUDENT SERVICES CENTER
•FINANCIAL AID
CLOSED: OCT. 4 - OCT. 12
REOPEN: OCT. 13 ON SECOND FLOOR OF THE STUDENT SERVICES CENTER
•EOPS
•ASSESSMENT CENTER
FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE VISIT: WWW.LAVC.COM
INFORMATION COMPILED BY: JAVIERA INFANTE

Fourth Victim Surfaces in Campus Area Assault Case

Prosecution announces plan to seek registered sex offender status.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

A fourth victim has come forward in the case against a 48-year-old Valley Glen resident who was arrested on Aug. 17 following a series of misdemeanor assaults on

and near the Valley College campus.

Khajik Dono, who appeared in Van Nuys court Wednesday for a pre-trial hearing, is charged with three counts of sexual battery and two counts of annoying or molesting a child. He is presently out on bail and returns to court Oct. 14.

The latest victim, a minor, was assaulted in late July while at the Orange Line bus terminal at Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. She reported the incident

after reading about the suspect's previous assaults and subsequent arrest in the Sept. 15 issue of the Valley Star.

"She didn't know there were other victims, and felt embarrassed by the situation," said Detective Richard Roberts of the Community College Bureau. "Knowing there are other victims helped her realize she was not alone and gave her the courage to come forward."

At a pre-trial hearing on

Sept. 29, prosecuting attorneys announced their intent to seek sex offender registration for Dono regardless of whether the case goes to trial or is settled via a plea agreement. Sex offender registration status is required by law for persons convicted of sex crimes and can be a requested element of a proposed plea agreement. Registration is for life and the offender must update personal information annually or more often, depending on the offense.

[See STUDENT SERVICES, Page 2]

BREAKING NEWS

Town Hall Meeting

A town hall meeting will be held in Monarch Hall, Wed. Oct. 20, from 1-2 p.m. The event will feature State Assembly Member Mike Feuer.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



Honda Rose Parade

A Rose Parade by any other name would smell as sweet.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW



Photos of the Week: Club Day

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE LOW DOWN...

INDEPENDENT AND GREEN

There's more than donkeys and elephants in the political zoo

CRISTINA
SERRATO



The United States is where donkeys and elephants rule politics, but Americans are joining forces with a whole different animal: the constitutional, the green, the libertarian parties. A third party for the masses.

"I'm a registered Independent. My friends all made fun of me 15 years ago, but now more are thinking my way," said 41-year-old Van Nuys resident Joy Murphy. "We need to figure out how to make a change in our government, no more fighting for power."

American government has been a two-party system for well over a century. The Democrats or Republicans have run the House, the Senate and 49 of the 50 state legislatures since 1864. They alternate seats of political authority or majority, fighting amongst themselves for political power, while effectively shutting out third parties.

The Third Party has been

[See COLUMN, Page 2]

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Editorials are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401 (818) 947-2576.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Lucas Thompson

MANAGING EDITOR
J.P. Spence

COPY EDITOR
Jamie Norried

NEWS EDITOR
Jon Seeley

OPINION EDITOR
Kelly Davis

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
David Motte

PHOTO EDITOR
Varughan Chapanian

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ricardo Varela

STAFF WRITERS
Vince Dorin, Carolina Leon, Cristina Serrato, Michael Mkerchyan, Stephanie Colman, Narine Petrosyan, Elizabeth Hernandez, Courtney Bassler, Javiera Infante, Joshua Lawrence, Antwone Mercer, Jessica Zepeda

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Natalie Lozano, Uba Samson, Windy Nicely

ONLINE MANAGER
Ivan Zuniga

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chip Rudolph

ADVISERS
Bill Dauber, Rod Lyons

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

easy to keep out of the major political offices, especially since most schools do not teach students about more than the two major parties. All the hoopla seen on TV surrounds Democrats and Republicans, giving many Americans the impression there is no alternative to the two.

"People are complaining about not seeing change, the change that Obama promised, but people need to stick to the Democratic Party, because with Republicans in the house you can kiss Obama's change goodbye," said Valley student Luis Serrano, a Democrat.

The Third Party consists of three major parties: the Constitution Party, which is a Christian Nationalist party; the Green Party, which is a progressive Eco-socialist party; and the Libertarian Party. Despite the fact that Third Party members can be ostracized by their fellow Americans and have little chance of winning an official political position, they increase their numbers every year. With just under a million registered voters within the three major parties that make up the Third Party, they are a force that can no longer be ignored. In fact, a recent Gallup poll found that 58 percent of Americans want a third major party to take over where the Democrats

and Republicans are failing.

"It's time to change course. We've put our faith in the Republicans and Democrats, but the two titanic parties are heading straight for the iceberg, and not changing course," said Laura Wells, 2010 Green Party candidate for Governor.

With more than 20 percent of registered voters being affiliated with a third party, there is a chance at change in politics. The Prohibition and Socialist Parties helped the Women's Suffrage movement long before the major parties, the Socialist Party helped develop child labor laws and the 40-hour work week. Without the third parties, America would be a very different place.

"I never thought about the Socialist Party as doing good, I didn't realize we even had a party like, but now I gotta Google it," said Juan, a Valley art major.

There are more choices than Democrat and Republican to choose from when defining your political affiliation. If voters do not fit into the black-and-white stereotype associated with either of the majority parties, they can check out the alternatives.

I have said it before, and will say it again: vote. Every vote is a voice, use yours.

For more information on Third Parties please go to www.politics1.com

VICTIM

Continued from page 1

According to Roberts, the addition of the latest victim further demonstrates the dangerous and escalating nature of Dono's behavior, as well as highlighting his tendency to target minors and young-looking women.

"This guy is more than an occasional offender," Roberts said. Hopefully (the latest victim) will send a message to the judge and jury that (Dono) is a problem and will continue his

pattern of behavior if allowed to go free," he added.

The previous assaults took place over summer, one on campus in parking Lot G on Burbank Boulevard and Ethel Avenue, and the third at the Orange Line terminal. In each case, victims reported being verbally harassed and groped over clothing by a Middle-Eastern man on a bicycle who was later identified as Dono.

STUDENT SERVICES

Continued from page 1

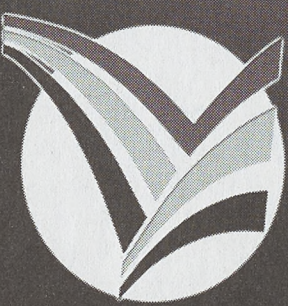
end of the line rather than forfeit his appointment. The building, which employed approximately 500 workers throughout the planning and construction process, was designed and built with environmental sustainability in mind and is classified as a Silver LEED project by the U.S. Green Building Council. This means the facility meets certain environmental stewardship requirements relating to water efficiency, pollution prevention, energy optimization, use of recycled materials, and various other specified elements. In preparation for the move, several campus services began temporary closures on Sept. 27. Manzano reports the move was scheduled for the lowest demand period in an effort to minimize disruption to students. He acknowledged the transition has been tough on some students, explaining many incidents were related to last minute requests attributable to poor student planning. "We've been trying to help

with urgent matters. Most of the students have been understanding," he explained. Counseling Secretary Selma Cohen's experience with students during the move has been different. "It's been very bad," she said, referring to the timing of her department's move coinciding with the cut-off date for transfer applications. "The students were hysterical because they couldn't get their transcripts. Anytime you make a move it's bad for students. Summer would have been better," she added. The building was originally scheduled for summer completion, but a two-month construction delay forced administration to tackle the transition during the fall semester. "There's been a lot of planning and now we're seeing the fruit of that planning," Manzano said. "Once we're finished, we're really going to be able to help students in a more efficient and better way - and with great facilities." An official grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration is scheduled for Nov. 15.

VALLEY STAR ADVERTISING

For information and rates call: 818.359.9324

or email: advertising@lavalleystar.com



JOIN THE VALLEY STAR

The Valley Star is looking for committed students when it comes to reporting and journalism. From writers, designers to video editors and anything that could contribute to the student paper.

To receive more info on joining the Valley Star, visit us at: WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM/JOIN

PREPARE TODAY TO LEAD FOR A LIFETIME.

What do you need to succeed in today's climate? You need to **START STRONG.**™ In Army ROTC, you'll do just that. While attending college, you'll gain strength, character, and unmatched leadership skills to lead the most well-trained individuals in any field. And when you graduate and complete Army ROTC, you can be commissioned as a U.S. Army Officer. Plus, to help pay for your education, you can earn a full-tuition, merit-based scholarship. ROTC will give you strength for a lifetime of success. There's strong. Then there's Army Strong.

For more information, visit goarmy.com/rotc/startstrong.



ARMY ROTC ARMY STRONG.™

©2009. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

CAMPAIGNING ON SMOKE AND MIRRORS

Candidates spend millions of dollars commandeering support from voters, but they fail to reveal what's really behind the mask.

KELLY DAVIS
OPINION EDITOR

The months leading up to an election should, in theory, familiarize the voters with the candidates and assure them that they are voting for the individual they feel will represent them best.

Unfortunately, the morning after elections most of us wake up with a feeling similar to that after a bad one-night stand, realizing we have no idea who is lying in bed next to us. We've been lied to, manipulated into consenting; even worse, we got knocked up and now we have to deal with this stranger for years to come. We have voter's remorse.

The election process has evolved into a battle of, "He said, she said" and it has become extremely difficult for voters to find credible sources to wade through the lies to find the truth. Instead of trying to win the confidence of the voters, the candidates have spent most of their time either name-calling and denigrating their opponents, or defending themselves from the slanderous accusations that have been brought against them in a series of malicious television ads.

California's gubernatorial and Senate races are no different. Meg Whitman in her quest for the highest state office has accused Jerry Brown of having a legacy of failure.

Brown has focused on reveal-

ing the "real Meg," accusing Whitman of being corrupt in her dealings with Goldman Sachs and insider eBay stock deals, and of paying herself \$120 million right before laying off 10 percent of the staff at eBay.

The Senate race has unfolded in a similar way with Carly Fiorina blaming all of California's problems on Barbara Boxer and her 28 years in Washington; accusing her of wasteful spending, killing small businesses and "crushing hopes."

Boxer then accused Fiorina of laying off 30,000 workers as CEO of Hewlett Packard, shipping jobs to "Shanghai instead of San Jose" and "Bangalore instead of Burbank" and taking home \$100 million in wages for herself.

They campaign with an advertising sense of the word. They take "a systematic course of aggressive activities for some specific purpose." The candidates become so focused on being the most aggressive "bulldog with lipstick," that they forget to actually assure voters that electing them is the wisest move to make.

They talk circles throughout debates, never actually answering questions. They claim they know how to deal with certain issues but never expand on what their plan is. The entire election process is a matter of one candidate looking better than their opponent.

As a result of this process, most voters have no idea who the candidates really are, what they are about, and they lack confidence that candidates will get the job done. A majority of the voters who show up on election day do so based on political affiliation alone.

And those who don't wake up the morning after with voter's remorse

usually wind up with a case of it months or years later when they realize the politician they voted for isn't actually who they said they are, and they won't actually do what they promised to do.



It's hard to gather actual information when nothing is being said.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

When it comes to the race for governor of California, between Meg Whitman and Jerry Brown it should be about the facts and facts alone.

With that said, the facts are...
Cue the facts.
Anyone...?

The voting public knows that election time is right around the corner, not because all voters are patriotic and are aware of their privilege and responsibilities but rather the mud slinging has commenced over the airwaves.

For the record, smear campaigns are fine. They actually say a

lot about the person being attacked and the attacker themselves. There should be a little finesse involved though. There used to be more subtlety, implication and dare I say it, facts. If the public has to choose between essentially just two people, you think facts would be requisite instead of luxury.

That is the inherent problem with the race for governor this time. During recent ads and debates, Brown and Whitman have attacked each other on personality, not the facts. The political climate isn't the same as the last election or even 2003. There isn't a media discernable "bad guy" (Gray Davis), "unknown" (Cruz Bustamante, Phil Angelides), or "good guy" (Arnold Schwarzenegger). All of which is great, save for the fact that this time around the public is

forced to choose between two people on personality which both are clearly devoid of, but abundant in, baggage.

The outlook gets worse once the suitcase is opened—a Pandora's box of Samsonite, if you will.

Whitman is a self-made billionaire from Silicon Valley who has spent more money—\$119 million—than anyone in campaign history. For

someone who has described herself as "no nonsense," shoving former employees, being involved in congressional investigations regarding Goldman Sachs, and "Nannygate" all appear to be major hindrances. Almost immediately after the first gubernatorial debate, where a hard-lining Whitman said the authorities need to go after people who employ illegal immigrants, she had to admit that her former housekeeper was undocumented.

Whitman's competition isn't a prize pig himself.

Jerry Brown is California's Attorney General in addition to already serving two terms as governor of California. The three failed presidential campaigns has to speak for something beyond public relation problems. Speaking of which, there is little or no confidence in someone who runs an ad saying, "I don't have the answers, but we as Californians have to work hard and buckle down." Really? What a novel concept. Well, Jerry, it would be easier to buckle down as a Californian if Californians knew what they had to work with. You know, like a budget.

For someone who is already in office, serving California, and doesn't have the answers means that they probably don't know the problems either. Talk about a ringing endorsement.

This is an election that was supposed to be all about the economy and jobs. The public should count their blessings if they even get near that topic before election. What should be an honest examination has turned into a childish game of name calling. The only advice to be given at this point is what most elementary school kids say: read between the lines.

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID ...
HARDLY HEROIC

The actions of our service men and women show that heroism is a dying breed.

KELLY DAVIS



Firefighters, doctors, and police officers for ages have been lauded for being professions aimed at serving and protecting, often risking their lives to help others.

Whether society has placed them on a pedestal and has unrealistic expectations of them or if the morals and expectations of society as a whole have fallen by the wayside is yet to be shown. We seem to forget that regardless of what professional title one has bestowed upon him or herself, each and every one of us is only human. And as humans, we generally tend to suck.

The downfall of true heroism has been plastered all over the news. The police have long been corrupt, in cahoots with the mafia, receiving payoffs from drug lords. But because of their badge, they are often judged less harshly.

In August, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department was accused of a cover-up when IMPD officer, David Bisard's DUI charges were dismissed after Bisard hit and killed 30-year-old Eric Wells. Bisard's blood alcohol content at the time of the crash was .19, over twice the legal limit in Indiana.

Doctors have also lost a great amount of credibility, falling prey to the lure of insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry. The doctors of Michael Jackson and Anna Nicole Smith have recently faced charges of involuntary manslaughter, drug conspiracy and obtaining prescriptions under a false name. Doctors used to be people you could trust with your life and your well-being. Unfortunately, today you can walk into doctors' offices and request pretty much anything you want.

The last to fall victim to the dark side were the firefighters. But what motivation did they have to abandon their code of ethics? They put out fires and save lives. They have a 9-11 Memorial Wall dedicated to them for their heroism. And yet, not all of them are deserving of that honor.

Last week, Tennessee's Obion County Fire Department stood by, armed with hoses and watched the home of Gene Cranick burn to the ground, all because he hadn't paid his \$75 annual subscription fee to the fire department. Cranick offered to pay any amount of money if the firefighters would just help, but he was refused service.

Local Mayor David Crocket was quoted saying, "If an auto owner allowed their vehicle insurance to lapse, they would not expect an insurance company to pay for an unprotected vehicle after it was wrecked."

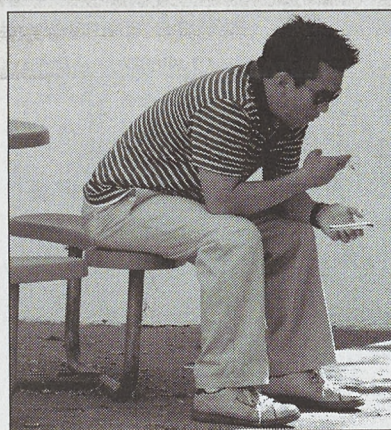
It could be that people really are cruel-hearted and mean; that Good Samaritans no longer exist. But chances are this impassive bystander behavior is a result of one of the many ridiculous laws in effect in Tennessee, the state where it is illegal to catch a fish with a lasso yet legal to gather and consume road kill.

E-mail Kelly Davis at k.davis@lavalleystar.com. Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com.

KEEP YOUR NASTY BUTTS OUT OF OUR SECTION

Valley College smokers are having a hard time sticking to the eight designated smoking sections.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER



WINDY NICELY | VALLEY STAR
BREAKING THE LAW - A student disregards designated smoking sections.

smoke could trigger a heart attack. If smoking is confined to designated areas then non-smokers always have the option to leave that area. But if not, non-smokers are being held hostage by the wafting smoke from cigarettes on campus.

Those smoking outside of a designated area should be informed they are breaking the rules. Violators can be ticketed for an infraction and penalties range from academic discipline to a fee.

Realistically not every violator will be caught smoking in action; therefore, the second-hand smoke continues to spread around campus. The only resolution for this would be to forget about the designated areas and ban smoking on campus altogether if smokers cannot respect and follow simple rules. No one wants to be unfair but it's definitely not fair to people who can't stand the smell of smoke and have to deal with ugly health consequences.

If smokers wish to continue to have the privilege of smoking in designated areas on campus, they must respect the rights of others.

INDIVIDUALITY THROUGH ASSIMILATION

College students struggle to find their own sense of individuality.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

College is a time to learn new things, decide for the first time what you want to learn, meet new people, discover your passion, and reveal the fire within yourself to make great changes. Most importantly college is a time to invent your own individuality rather than replicating someone else's or following the latest celebrity trend.

Individuality is something that is gained on your own often through experiences, perception and confidence in yourself. More recently individuality has been influenced by different factors such as technology, television, music and radical celebrities. Technology and the media are present everywhere in this day and age and its impact on society is making a tremendous affect on individualism. Magazines specifically always offer suggestions where to shop in order to find similar clothing to celebrities.

While attending college and dealing with extracurricular activities some students can often find they are too busy to find their own sense of individuality. So they

change their set of principles, goals and style to fit someone else's; they become a "copycat."

Julie Chujit, chemistry major at Valley, agrees that individuality is often copied. "I think there is a lot of copying going on in school and students often try to find stuff that I have," said Chujit.

It's important to keep your own characteristics and invent your own sense of style. Ultimately being yourself is what breaks you away from an average crowd of wannabes.

Take for example Lady Gaga, when she first stepped into the media she offered a fresh look and new exciting music. Now Gaga's "individuality" is spreading like a disease. Her personal ideas and, often outrageous, style are becoming widespread. Gaga's fans or "little monsters" as she calls them are overly star struck as they continue to obsess over her every move, lose their own individuality.

"A lot of people affiliate themselves with Lady Gaga because they see her trendy outfits and want to be apart of that scene," said Edith Samano, a biology major at Valley who believes people replicate what is shown on television.

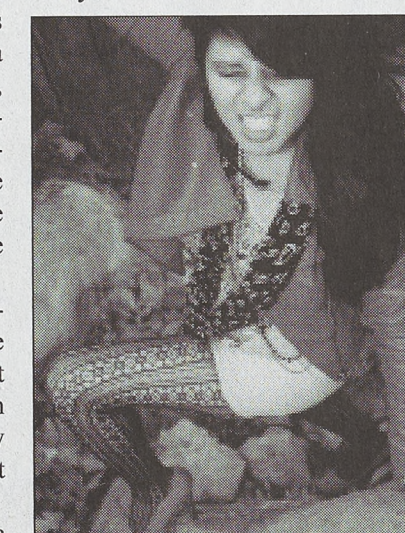
Individuality is more often a problem among women. Women are always trying to fit in or compete against their closest peers.

Surely every girl can relate to fellow ladies asking, "Where did you get your heels?"

Expressing yourself and embracing your own ideas is the essence of individuality. A copycat brings nothing to the table, their ideas are not original and often times they are more annoying than flattering.

Individuality is a huge factor in landing college acceptance or your dream job, so that's something to think about the next time you decide to express yourself.

As the saying goes, little monsters, "You're unique, just like everyone else."



NATALIE LOZANO | VALLEY STAR
COPYCAT - Laura Velazquez not only emulates Lady Gaga's fashion but her attitude as well.

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

VALLEY VIEW

WHY DO YOU THINK THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG ADULTS DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH THE ELECTION?



"There's just so much to get involved in that it just confuses everyone. It takes time."

-AMY HERNANDEZ
BIOLOGY



"They probably either don't care or maybe they're raised in families that didn't emphasize the importance."

-WILLIAM CHASE
PSYCHOLOGY



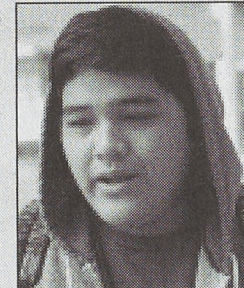
"They're young, they're in college, and they're trying to party, get drunk and have a good time."

-MATT BURKHEAD
HISTORY



"I guess they don't keep to date, don't watch the news, don't read the paper, just don't really know what's going on."

-SYMBRIA COULTAS
PSYCHOLOGY



"When I was asked to register to vote, I was really lazy and I didn't want to waste my time with it."

-HECTOR HERRERA
MEDIA ARTS

PHOTOS BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

LAVC Events

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 6th
3:30 p.m.

LAVC to host the next LACCD Board of Trustees Meeting. The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is hosting its monthly meeting. Monarch Hall. For more information, contact the LAVC president's office at (818) 947-2321.

Tuesday, 19th
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

RSVP Today for the Valley Green Building Task Force Event with Guest Speaker Larry Eisenberg. The Valley Green Building Task Force and the Valley Green Team will hold its monthly meeting with special guest speaker Larry Eisenberg, executive director of facilities planning and development for the Los Angeles Community College District. Cafeteria Conference Room \$10 Donation. To RSVP, contact Carolyn Casavan at (818) 644-7976, ext. 402.

Thursday, 21st
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

LAVC Sustainability Workshop. The LAVC Sustainability Group will be kicking off its Fall 2010 LAVC Sustainability Series with a "LAVC Central Plant Turns Green into Gold" workshop. Participants will take a walking tour of the LAVC Central Plant and enjoy green tea and light refreshments. Cafeteria Conference Room. To request an accommodation for this event, please email marriodc@lavc.edu. For more information, contact Doug Marriot in LAVC Job Training at (818) 7785568 or visit www.lavc.edu.gogreen.

! THINK TRANSFER

The Career/Transfer Center has moved to the Student Services Building Annex. All activities below are in the Career/Transfer Center unless otherwise indicated. For further information contact (818) 947-2646.

Fall 2011 UC and CSU Application Websites now open. Apply at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply and www.csumentor.edu.

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 6th

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
UC Riverside Rep
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Mount St. Mary's Rep

Thursday, 7th

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Loyola Marymount University Rep
Monarch Hall

Monday, 11th

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop

Tuesday, 12th

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
CSU Los Angeles Rep

UCLA Workshops

1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
General Admissions
1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Social Science Majors
2:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Science Majors
2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Engineering Majors

STUDENTS SIT IN ON AN INTIMATE REHEARSAL

A rehearsal for the Kadima String Quartet leads to an intimate performance.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

A rehearsal is usually an intimate affair between the members of a musical ensemble and is rarely shared with a general audience. Valley College's Free Concert Series invited students to sit in on an informal rehearsal with the Kadima String Quartet Wednesday afternoon as they prepared for a future concert date.

An audience of 25 students sat amongst the empty sheet music stands and covered piano of room M112, forming a circle around the quartet as the cello, viola and two

violins were being tuned.

"I feel a little self-conscious tuning in front of so many people," said viola player Beth Elliot.

The lineup of the quartet has changed many times over the years, generally consisting of Eric km Clark on first violin, Beth Elliot on viola, and Lynn Angebrannt on cello. A newer addition to the ensemble is Andrew Tholl on second violin. All four members are accomplished musicians, and as a quartet they currently sit in residence at the Kadima Conservatory of Music, as well as Valley College. Angebrannt is the strings teacher at Valley and as an ensemble; the quartet takes pride in their pedagogical role as well as their role as professional musicians. As educators, they are actively involved in outreach programs and music education in Southern California.

Instead of rushing through their set list for the audience, the quartet focused on rehearsing only one movement. "String Quartet in F major" by Maurice Ravel is an eccentric piece consisting of many changes and requires a variety of playing techniques throughout the movement. Ignoring their bows for the first few measures, the four members simultaneously finger-plucked the notes from their instruments before breaking into the main jazz-like rhythmic movement of the composition.

As minor disagreements over tempo and volume occasionally spawned throughout the rehearsal, students got a glimpse of what is really involved in preparing and perfecting a composition for the performance.

"And now here's the real side of rehearsals," joked Elliot follow-

ing a slight tiff between Clark and Tholl.

The Kadima String Quartet will be performing "String Quartet in F major" as well as other various

compositions on Oct. 13 as part of the annual Daniel Pearl World Music Day Concert. The performance will be held in the Music Recital Hall.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN (PHOTO EDITOR) | VALLEY STAR

PRACTICE - The Kadima String Quartet rehearses in front of a small crowd.

VALLEY'S BEST IN SHOW

Valley College hosts Burbank Kennel Club's annual all-breed dog show.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

More than 950 perfectly clipped, combed and coiffed canines strutted their stuff on campus over the weekend at Burbank Kennel Club's 18th Annual All-Breed Dog Show. Valley College has been home to the show since its inception in 1992.

The sport of conformation, commonly referred to by the public as a "dog beauty pageant," is about judging individual dogs against a pre-defined standard established by the American Kennel Club.

"It's a process of elimination

event designed to bring out and discover the best representation of each breed," said Benjie Moses, Burbank Kennel Club vice president and show chairman.

A good day at the dog show will find the same dog entering the ring as many as five times if he's lucky enough to win his class each round and end up in the running for the coveted title of Best in Show. Judging a full entry typically requires eight hours or longer.

"There's no perfect dog," said Jody Piner of Quailwood Kennels in Bakersfield. "We show our dogs because we want to improve the breed. It's a labor of love," she added. According to Piner, showing a dog helps breeders identify strengths and weaknesses, which become important considerations

when deciding whether or not to breed the dog, and if so, to what dog in an attempt to produce puppies that will grow into stronger examples of the breed.

Entered dogs ranged from Chihuahuas to Great Danes and most everything in between. French Bulldogs turned out in force, with 27 scheduled to hit the catwalk (sorry, dogwalk!), while lesser-known breeds like the Ibizan Hound and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever had only one of each on the roster. The AKC recognizes 161 different breeds of dogs, 133 of which were scheduled to be shown over the weekend.

To read the rest of the article, please visit lavalleystar.com.



RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR

BEAUTY PAGEANT - A judge checks a dog for a pre-defined standard.

Master the leader in you.

The Bachelor of Science in Management

The Pepperdine Advantage

- Lead the way by adding the prestige of Pepperdine University to your resumé
- Complete your bachelor's degree in two years with evening and weekend classes, and earn your MBA in as little as one additional year
- Transfer to Pepperdine's Graziadio School with a minimum of 60 lower-division units
- Guaranteed admission through TAG community college partnerships

Learn more by attending an **Information Session** on campus.
October 27, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Student Services Building Annex, Career Transfer Center

bschool.pepperdine.edu

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
Graziadio School of Business and Management
Encino, Irvine and West LA Graduate Campuses

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

FORTUNATELY, YODA ISN'T HERE TO SEE THIS

New plans to take Star Wars into 3-D brings unbalance to the force.

J.P. SPENCE



No one would've figured that George Lucas was the one who'd turn to the dark side.

On the heels of the massive success of "Avatar," along with the increasing popularity and acceptance of 3-D films, Lucas has decided to not only rerelease all six Star Wars films (again), but in stunning and beautiful (it isn't) 3-D.

It would've been nice to hear from the Lucas compound that there will be a re-release of "The Empire Strikes Back." (This year marks the 30th anniversary of the best film in the saga.) Instead, fans and the public are warned the Jar Jar Binks will again be unleashed to the masses.

The plan is for "Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace" to be released in 3-D in 2012 followed by the remaining five episodes in chronological order.

The phrase used to be, "If it ain't broke don't fix it." Lucas obviously feels that if it isn't broke don't fix it... but add tons of extra stuff to fill the glaring hole where the story used to be, and market the product differently than you did years ago so you can get away with selling the same crap over and over again.

What initially sparked Lucas' interest in the idea was how well James Cameron's "Avatar" was shot.

Lucas has been quoted as saying, "Haven't been a big fan of 3-D, but that movie [Avatar] definitely improves in 3-D...we've been looking for years and years

and years of trying to take 'Star Wars' and put it in 3-D."

It's more than likely that profit margin is what sparked Lucas' interest.

Gary Kurtz, collaborator and producer for "Star Wars" and "Empire Strikes Back," had this to say: "I could see where things were headed. The toy business began to drive the [Lucasfilm] empire. It's a shame. They make three times as much on toys as they do on films."

It's funny because they used to say that about the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.

Kurtz further added, "The first film and 'Empire' were about story and character, but I could see that George's priorities were changing."

3-D appears to be that next step in the process. In all honesty, it might make the prequels more interesting considering they set such a low mark, but adding 3-D to the original trilogy is blasphemy.

"Star Wars" is noted by the American Film Institute as the 13th greatest film of all time. Its neighbors on that list include "City Lights" and the "Wizard of Oz." Some idiot executive may have thought, "Hey, those lollipop kids are great but in 3-D we can feel like we can pick one up," but they did not act on it.

Maybe a Jedi mind trick will work on Darth Lucas. "You do not want to make this film. You want to respect your fans and your colleagues who made you the millionaire you are today. You will stop pillaging your legacy for the almighty dollar. Also...you will not make any more Indiana Jones films."

Did it work?

E-mail J.P. Spence at j.spence@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to valleystar@lavalleystar.com

VALLEY STUDENT RECOGNIZED IN STATEWIDE PHOTO COMPETITION

Valley College student's photo of L.A. River wins College Seen photo contest.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

For Valley College student Deborah Chesher, the road one travels while in community college was best represented in her winning photograph taken from a bridge over the L.A. River. An artistic display of light, shadow, angles and intersecting lines, "College Crossroads" symbolizes the ongoing search for direction.

Her artistic vision earned her first place in the conceptual category in the 2010 College Seen photo contest co-sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, CollegeBuys and Adobe.

"I thought it was a really representative shot of what it's like to be in community college and trying to figure out what you're going to do with your life," said Chesher. "It's the idea of having so many opportunities, but only one life."

There are so many things you can do – how do you do all of them in the nanosecond that we get to be on this planet?"

According to Jill Scofield, public relations director for the foundation, the goal of the contest is to recognize exceptional photos that tell the story of California's community college students. "We want students to engage and reflect on their lives and the college experience, while creating a gallery of photos to display their talent," she said.

Chesher is fully engaged in and enjoying her college experience at Valley. A primarily self-taught photographer, she got her start in Vancouver, Canada shooting the musical greats of the '70s when, as she explains, the music business was still about music. After amassing an impressive shot list of musicians that includes Dennis Wilson, John Bonham, Frank Zappa and John Lee Hooker, to name a few, she came to Los Angeles and entered the film industry. She spent several years shooting production stills, followed by graphic design and art direction work, dur-

ing which time she discovered an interest in writing and producing films that would eventually lead her to Valley's campus.

In the fall of 2009, she enrolled in Broadcasting 25: Radio/TV/Film Writing with Professor Watanabe. Before long she was carrying a full load of broadcasting and media arts classes and writing a film she's now producing.

"You're never too young to learn and you're never too old to learn," said Chesher. "I really just came to take that one class, but I love the passion of the professors here. It's a bit addictive."

While proud of her recent win, she is quick to point out the subjective nature of art contests and the importance of staying true to yourself as an artist.

"You might have a really great photograph, but if the people looking at it don't 'get it' or it reminds them of something they don't like ... I think anybody entering a contest who doesn't win should not feel that they aren't valid or good. That's a really important thing to know."



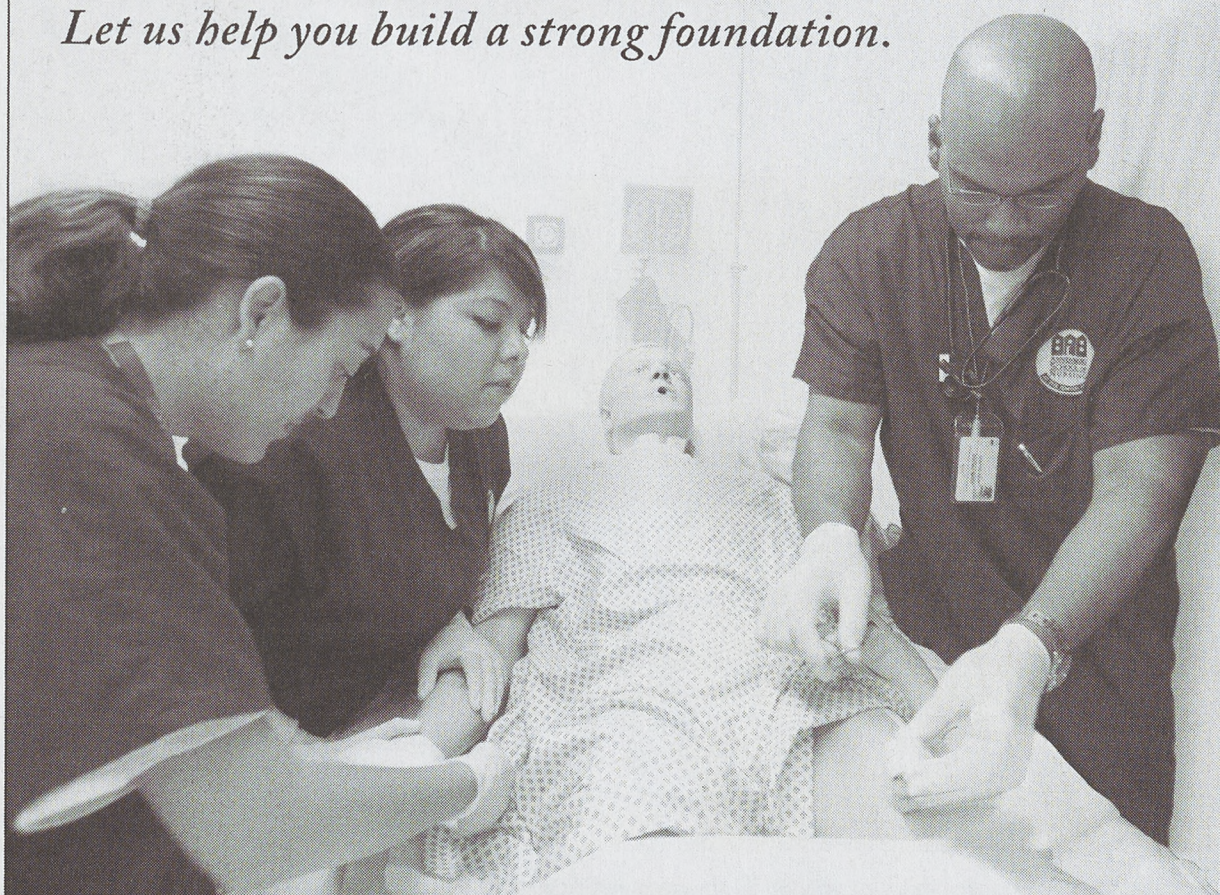
Everybody I Shot Is Dead
SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR
Deborah Chesher



DEBORAH CHESHER | SPECIAL TO THE STAR
COLLEGE CROSSROADS - Deborah Chesher's winning photograph.

A profession that is in demand... A career that is satisfying!

Let us help you build a strong foundation.

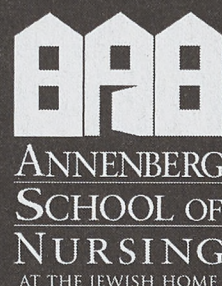


The Los Angeles Jewish Home's prestigious Annenberg School of Nursing is now accepting applications for its ongoing vocational nursing program. We provide personalized LVN training and financial assistance.

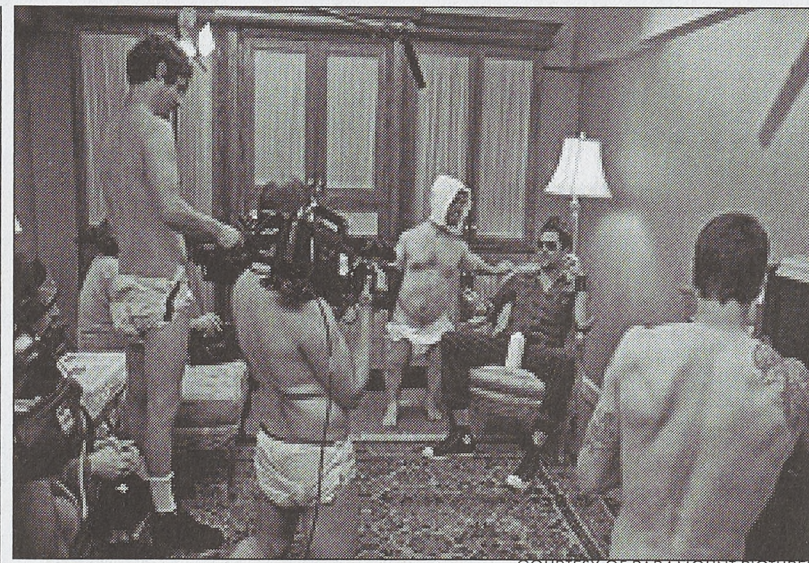
Does it get any better than that?

**Informational Open Houses
will be held
October - December 2010**

For further information contact us at 818-757-4431 or ASN@jha.org
www.jha.org/annenberg



Annenberg School of Nursing does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, non-disqualifying disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status or veteran status in the recruitment of students, or in the implementation of its policies, procedures and activities.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

Johnny Knoxville and company mark the 10-year anniversary of Jackass by going 3-D.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

From crapping in toilets at local hardware stores to crapping in limos to the logical progression of crapping in 3-D, the boys of "Jackass" come from humble beginnings. To mark the 10-year anniversary of the Jackass franchise, Johnny Knoxville and director Jeff Tremaine couldn't think of a better way to celebrate a decade of defecation with another gut busting sequel. The Valley Star had an opportunity to interview the duo about their upcoming film "Jackass 3-D."

Valley Star: *How was the process for shooting in 3-D or using the phantom high speed cameras (the same cameras used to shoot the opening montage of "Zombieland") compared to what you're normally accustomed to?*

Jeff Tremaine: The 3-D cameras were a lot bigger and bulkier, but man, once we got all the guys together, it just felt like we were shooting a normal "Jackass." The process – we had to be a little more prepared. You know they took a little more prep time to get everything ready so when the guys show up, we can just shoot. They don't have to wait for all the, you know, the extra bodies to get set up. But for the most part, you know it felt the same.

Johnny Knoxville: Yes, my request to Jeff was if we shoot 3-D, I don't want to have to worry about the cameras one time during filming because we just need to be able

to do what we do. And Jeff and Dmitri absolutely set it up where we filmed it just like a regular "Jackass." We did not think about the cameras once. So ...

VS: *And what was the prep time?*

JT: You know the call time for the crew was a little bit earlier just to ... just because ... and it was ... the crew almost doubled in size to shoot it in 3-D. Each camera had, like, three people assigned to that camera, you know? And then what's funny is we had these really expensive 3-D cameras, but I would put our half-assed cameraman to shoot it. So, you know ...

VS: *What do you think the 3-D format will add to the movie experience?*

JK: It feels like you're right in the middle of a stunt with us. It really elevated the movie to a whole other level. Like, this bit, "The Beehive Tetherball," we're playing tetherball with a beehive, and it feels like 50,000 bees are swarming around the theater or around your head. It really ... it really works in 3-D.

JT: And it just makes a dumb idea even dumber.

JK: Yes

VS: *Other than the 3-D, if there's anything that takes this movie above and beyond where the other two were, what is it?*

JK: We, the relationships with the guys, are just ... you know we give each other hell, but you can really feel how close we are, and that just seems to be there. It was in there in the other films, but it was in this film bigger than ever. And really, the – we think that naturally elevates the stunts and pranks in each film, not super consciously, but just it takes a little more to make us laugh.

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



IT'S KIND OF A FUNNY STORY

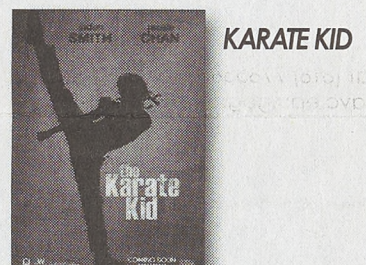
**KEIR GILCHRIST
EMMA ROBERTS
ZACH GALAFANAKIS**

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE:

- THE SOCIAL NETWORK: \$23M+
- LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS: \$10.9M+
- WALL STREET: \$10.1M+
- THE TOWN: \$10M+
- EASY A: \$7M+

MEDIA RELEASES

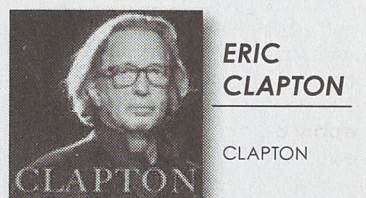
DVD



ALSO AVAILABLE:

- SPICE
- "BONES": SEASON 5
- BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
- HUMPHREY BOGART: THE ESSENTIAL COLLECTION

SONGSTOP DOWNLOADS



- ERIC CLAPTON**
- CLAPTON
- ALSO:**
- ABE VIGODA - CRUSH
 - NO AGE - EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN
 - NEIL YOUNG - LE NOISE
 - NICK HORNBY - LONELY AVENUE

CONCERTS & THEATRE



- NICK CURRAN AND THE LOWLIFES: OCT. 7 REDWOOD BAR
- ARCADE FIRE: OCT. 7 SHRINE AUDITORIUM
- PETER WOLF: OCT. 7 COACH HOUSE - CAPISTRANO
- JACK JOHNSON: OCT. 8 HOLLYWOOD BOWL
- LIZ PHAIR: OCT. 8 EL REY THEATER
- KEITH SWEAT: OCT. 9 GROVE OF ANAHEIM
- 100 MONKEYS: OCT. 10 ROXY THEATER

Complete Your Bachelor's Degree with APU



Choose from accredited degrees online or on campus.

LIBERAL STUDIES

The B.A. in Human Development (HDEV) can prepare you for a career in education. In less than two years, you could be on your way to teaching in your own classroom.

LEADERSHIP

The versatile B.S. in Organizational Leadership (BSOL) makes it easy to take the next step in your career. You'll learn relevant business strategies that can empower you to become an effective leader.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

- Complete your degree in less than two years.
- Choose to earn your degree online, or attend class one night a week at a location near you.
- Applicants for the HDEV program must be at least 22 years old; BSOL program applicants must be at least 25.

Find out about the next HDEV or BSOL program start date. Contact us today!

CALL (626) 815-5301
CLICK www.apu.edu/explore/caps
EMAIL aps@apu.edu

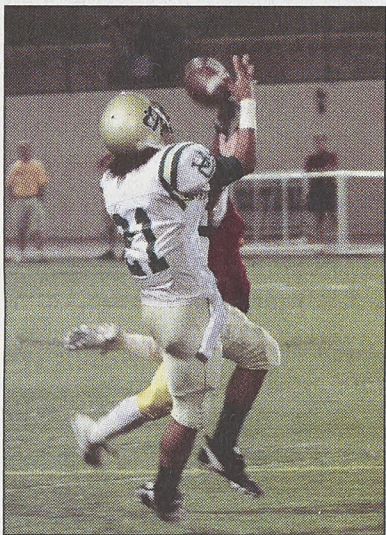


AZUSA | HIGH DESERT | INLAND EMPIRE | LOS ANGELES
MURRIETA | ORANGE COUNTY | SAN DIEGO | VENTURA COUNTY | ONLINE

MONARCHS DIG DEEP AGAINST VAQUEROS



GETTING STOPS - Valley linebacker Jake Granitz heads the tackle on a Glendale Community College running back.



CATCH - Travion Odom pulls in a catch from Dan Owen.

The Monarchs battled on both sides of the ball Saturday in a 27-21 victory over Glendale Community College.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dan Owen tasted his pre-game meal twice before he stepped out onto the field at Glendale Community College Saturday night. He vomited during the kick-off, wiped his mouth, and headed out to take his first snap against the Vaqueros.

"I had a cold all week and I was feeling pretty nasty before the game started," Owen said. "I've had concussions this season, I had a cold all week, [and] with the nerves combined I started throwing up a little bit."

Concussions, nerves, cold and

all, Owen managed 317 yards passing, two touchdowns, and 72 yards rushing in the Monarchs 27-21 victory against the Vaqueros.

"Well, Dan played a game that we kind of expect out of him," Valley Head Coach Jim Fenwick said. "He got us into the right plays at times; he's been banged up and not into the flow of things ... so that really helped."

The Monarchs first drive resulted in a missed field goal attempt by Agustin Flores with 10:14 remaining in the first quarter. The Vaqueros, however, wasted no time marching the field on consecutive runs and one pass play. On the ensuing snap Glendale running back Joshua Nakamoto was handed the ball on a 42-yard sweep play that he took to the end zone with 8:57 remaining in the quarter.

Despite the scoreless first quarter for the Monarchs, big plays from receivers Travion Odom, Marquel Henderson, and David Valencia kept the Valley offense clicking. The trio, 167 coming from Odom, combined forces for a total of 295 receiving yards in the night.

An early two-yard touchdown run by Monarch running back, Ewayn Pigford, tied the game at seven with 10:26 left in the half. Valley College defense added to the momentum, forcing the Vaqueros to punt after a three and out on offense.

"We just kept fighting," Henderson said. "Defense was relentless ... they just wanted it [and] they kept the fire going for the offense."

Owen's only interception of the night came on the next series, which led to a 25-yard touchdown

pass from Glendale quarterback Patrick Donahue to receiver Steven Batista. With 3:20 left in the half the Monarch offense was held to a field goal, making it 14-10 at the half.

The second half belonged to the Monarchs. Just over 12 minutes into the third quarter, Owen connected with Travion Odom for a 69-yard touchdown pass that gave Valley the lead, 17-14. The pair hooked up once more with .36 left in the quarter on a 58-yard pass that put the Monarchs up by 10.

"I think our offense has finally come into itself," Owen said. "They're a good team, I just think we came out in the second half and we really had an answer for what they were doing."

Donahue and Batista coordinated a final stand against the Monarchs with 1:21 left in the game. A 20-yard catch from Batista pulled the Vaqueros within six points of Valley leading to an onside kick attempt by Glendale. The Monarchs managed to recover the onside kick and defeated the Vaqueros by a final score of 27-21.

"I think our whole team prepared well," Fenwick said. "We kind of had an idea of what to expect and I think they got a lot out of practice and prepared well, and it pays off ... that's what is kind of rewarding about it, to see some of the things that you work on, some of the things you believe in, what you're doing, and then it works."

The Monarchs will have an extra week of preparation for their upcoming game against the West Los Angeles Wild Cats on Oct. 16. The team will look to improve on their 3-2 start to the season.



PHYSICALLY FIT - Students take part in the use of the new adapted gym.

Keeping it Physical at Valley College

The adapted gym helps the disabled and elderly remain physically fit.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

The new adapted physical education center ushers in the fall semester and welcomes disabled and elderly students to make a change in their life.

"You see a lot of people here from last semester," Valley College Head Baseball Coach Dave Mallas said. "The enrollment has continued to increase and there are a lot of family and friends referrals, which is a good sign that the word about us is getting out there."

Mallas is in charge of running the program at the adapted physical education center. He has his master's degree in physical education and has taken several classes in adapted physical education. Mallas is well equipped to help all the students who walk, or roll through the doors of the new gym.

The adapted gym serves disabled and elderly Valley students with a wide range of needs. The center opened last fall and began with 100 students. Today there are nearly 200 students enrolled. The gym is meant to help students improve their quality of life, or to

help them become more active. Others attend in order to keep up with physical therapy.

"The gym is helping me a lot," Valley student Jesus Morales said. "I have a lot bigger muscles, and I ask them how to help me use the machines, and they help me learn which ones to exercise with."

At age 25, Morales has the responsibility of helping care for his 23-year-old sister who is confined to a wheelchair. He lifts her in and out of her bed or wheelchair several times a day, which has been stressful on his body. With the help of the adapted gym, he and his sister can live a little easier.

"I do this for my sister, but I feel better and more energized. It's pretty cool," said Morales. "I feel like doing this every day. I love it here."

Josephina Verdin, 27, attends the physical education center twice a week in order for her to stay in shape and maintain a cheery attitude despite her severe head trauma.

"The gym has been helping me stay in shape, [and] it has been making my life better. I can get up easier and I like it here."

If you are interested in attending or learning more about the Adapted Physical Education Center, contact the Services for Student Disability office at (818) 947-2681.



SMILE - A student walks into the adapted gym for an afternoon workout.

Opportunity Knocks for Recruits

Valley recruiters offer student-athletes alternative opportunities.

ANTWONE MERCER
STAFF WRITER

Community college recruiting may not be as competitive as that of the NCAA. However, it still requires coaches and staff a considerable amount of time, money and dedication to take their experience and leadership to help potential college athletes find the best place to con-

tinue pursuing their goals.

"We're not just looking for athletes, we're looking for student-athletes," Valley College Athletic Director Diedra Stark said. "We promise them they will get all the academic help they need. We will also provide the support tools that will give students a great start on what will turn into a four-year degree." According to Stark, There is no extra funding for recruiting, and all expenses incurred by the coaches are paid through a stipend within the contracts, for coaching, that also includes recruiting.

"For us, we are limited in our recruiting," Valley men's basketball Head Coach Virgil Watson said. "We don't have budgets to travel anywhere in the state of California, and we're limited to the high schools that are in our Los Angeles Community College District. Every year thousands of qualified high school athletes are either unnoticed or unwanted due to lack of athletic skills, or are just academically unqualified."

For as many high school students that are hoping to play for a four-year college, very few are chosen. Because of this, playing sports

at a community college level can be the next best road to help get student-athletes back on track. In addition to a more personal coaching and training program, there is a much less stressful and intimidating learning environment in comparison to a university.

According to ESPN.com, recruiting is a high-stakes business for Division 1 schools that place serious pressure on students, parents, coaches and college athletic programs. For every recruit that is considered, there is a list of factors that are scrutinized including grades,

attitudes, and health.

"With no real incentives for student-athletes, we have to provide for them a service that keeps them on track academically, mentally and physically to expose them to a four-year college program," said Fenwick. "The problem with a lot of prospect high school recruits is that they don't want to listen right away, and after not receiving the scholarship they had hoped for from a Division 1 or 2 university they realize community colleges can provide for less fortunate student-athletes another opportunity."

ANALYZE THIS

THE "DECISION" TO INTERJECT RACISM

Lebron James: Racism isn't your problem ... taste is.

LUCAS THOMPSON



I t all started in high school. The decision, that is, for King James to begin developing his ego. An ego that has since been developed so much that Mr. James, crown and all, can fully justify in his mind that race, not his actions, is playing a factor in his current drop in popularity ... somebody call Reverend Wright, Don King, and Jesse Jackson this could get interesting

"I think so at times. It's always, you know, a factor," James said in a recent interview on CNN with Soledad O'Brien. O'Brien wanted to know if recent actions taken by fans, notably the burning of his jersey in the streets of Cleveland, were inspired by racism.

Racism is undoubtedly alive and well in every aspect of American society, in one form or another. Jokes, subtle comments, and subconscious feelings encompass and multiply the prejudice we have so long, as a country, attempted to leave behind.

This, however, is not the case here.

I mean, really? We are calling this racism? We fast forwarded to this being a case of prejudice and have so quickly forgotten the actions that led up to the cases where guys out there who have no life, job, or family decided to burn all of their Lebron memorabilia. By the way, this is ridiculous on more than one level ... they could be worth some money.

Let's not disregard that the self-proclaimed "Chosen One" held an hour-long special called "The Decision" to announce his departure from the Cleveland Cavaliers, without telling Mike Brown, the organization, or the fans first. Oh and "The Chosen One?" Not even Michael Jordan called himself "The Chosen One," and I'm pretty sure he was related to Jesus.

According to TheBleacherReport.com, from 2005-2010 the Cavaliers advanced to the second round of playoffs every year and won 272 games (best of any team in the eastern conference). James came and turned this organization around and made them a dominant threat in the NBA. He is one of the most explosive players in the NBA and will be for years to come.

But the nature in which he left the organization is unacceptable. A disrespectful, egotistical move on James's part that has left Cleveland fans hurt, disappointed and angry. And so we resort to racism. The almighty "race card." This is a hand in the poker game of life that at any point in time may be pulled to evoke pity and feelings of remorse for the victim.

I, for one, see no hint of racism, but merely a selfish act by a man who has built his ego since he was a sophomore in high school, a man, who now has the audacity to interject the racism factor, in order to ease the general population's frustration with his current actions. Congratulations Lebron, you are now the victim of racism ... let's hold a press conference.

E-mail Lucas Thompson at editor@lavalleystar.com